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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
SRI LANKA

(SRL/92/G31) - Development of Wild Life Conservation and Protected Area Management

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	15 January 1992
Expected duration:	Government in cooperation with FAO
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Lands, Irrigation and Mahaweli Development and the Department of Wild Life Conservation
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$4 079 800 Source of funds: GEF/SPR

Project background

The Action Plan on Environment of the Government of Sri Lanka confirms the extent to which it is committed to sustainable development with minimum damage to the environment. This Action Plan contains an important component relative to wild life conservation and protected area management. Last year the Government, with assistance from IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) and UNESCO, completed the Five-Year Development Plan for Wild life Conservation and Protected Area Management. Thus, the establishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) towards the latter part of 1990, with biodiversity as one of the four areas of concern, was very timely as far as the Government is concerned. In fact, the joint FAO/IUCN/UNESCO formulation mission which developed the draft project document relied heavily on the Government's Five-Year Plan. To develop wild life conservation and protected area management the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objectives of the project are to: (a) conserve the biological diversity of Sri Lanka in representative terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems; (b) manage wild life resources in certain parts of the country in a sustainable manner so as to benefit the present and future generations of Sri Lanka and of global communities; and (c) enhance the contribution of the wild life conservation and protected area management sector to national socio-economic development.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) raise the scientific and technical capacity of the Department of Wild Life Conservation (DWLC) for the establishment and management of protected areas and communication of their role in the socio-economic development of the nation to the people; and (b) develop a capacity for the systematic assessment and management of human/elephant conflicts and formulation of a strategy for integrated in-situ and ex-situ efforts to conserve Sri Lankan elephants.

Project activities will include: (a) training staff members of DWLC in English languages, wild life conservation and protected area management principles and other technical skills required in performing their respective duties; (b) establishing six protected areas including two each in the wet and coastal zones where protected area coverage at present is low; (c) managing protected area clusters covering existing protected areas; (d) preparing resource inventory for all these clusters; (e) undertaking research on suitable studies; (f) improving awareness among people; (g) developing methodology for rapid assessment of human/elephant conflict; (h) evolving strategies to manage the developed methodology; (i) applying the above-mentioned activities on an island-wide basis; and (j) conserving elephants in in-situ and ex-situ situations.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 24 work-months for an expert in protected area planning, 48 work-months of international consultancies in the fields of resource economics, habitat management, capture/translocation of elephants, elephant management, environmental interpretations, community participation and radio communication; 225 work-months of national consultancies on different subject areas; 15 external fellowships; two study tours; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 286 200
Subcontract	825 000
Training	930 000
Equipment	846 300
Miscellaneous	282 300
Total	4 079 800

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